

WOMEN WHO SELL SHOES.

Why Lady Customers Prefer Men in Most Shoe Stores.

"Most men are very inquisitive when they enter a shoe store," said a saleswoman in a big store to a reporter, "and there is a woman within view trying on a shoe, the performance is sure to draw their closest attention. But they would get over that soon if they were round very much, and if they had to sit on the customers themselves they would soon be bored."

"At this store, however, we have women clerks, as you see, and the men are relieved from their romantic duty, it is an instant upon viewing it in that light."

"How are these young women doing as clerks?"

"Oh, pretty well, but as yet we regard simply as an experiment, although we have had them here for quite a while. It is simply a question of business policy, and if it shall appear that a majority of our lady customers prefer their own sex they will be retained, otherwise not."

"I myself am inclined to think that there is a large demand for women clerks in this line, and that particular stores will always have them, although do not anticipate that all the stores will do so, by any means."

"Do most ladies, then, prefer women clerks?"

"Not by any means. It requires a great deal of strength in hand and arm to force a close-fitting shoe snugly into place, and a man can do that much better than a woman. But some women are so prudish that it makes them nervous to have a man fusing around their feet that way, and then there are others who, without being the least bit prudish about the matter, are so genuinely modest that they dislike the assistance of a man."

"There are a great many others who find their friends how annoying it is to be compelled to have a man serve them in a shoe store, who really enjoy the assistance of a woman, and who will keep a hand some young clerk working over them until he is all worn out, long after they have actually made up their minds not to purchase. That is what makes shoe clerks swear—themselves—and it is only a very green salesman who does not become disgusted."

"I think, therefore, that some places will always have women clerks and others men. So shoe stores have tried the experiment of keeping both, but even a lady who decidedly prefers to have a gentleman wait on her, does not like to select a young man when there is a woman standing by, and she will probably take pains to avoid that another time."

"How do the male clerks regard the introduction of the women?"

"Generally with entire favor, unless it appears to cause the loss of their positions. Almost any old clerk would rather wait on a man than a woman."

"It takes a great deal more time and trouble and hard work to serve a woman than a man. A man usually knows what he wants, and is easily satisfied. A woman merely knows what she does not want, and as that embraces everything in the store, it is simply a choice of evils to be made after much labor and worry. Of course, the clerk is blamed for any mistake the customer finally makes."

"Yes, I think the men are perfectly willing that the women clerks should attend to the women."

A Lawyer's Smart Clerk.

A New York lawyer tells a story of a recent occurrence in his office by which his boy made \$35, but came near getting two people into a very unpleasant predicament.

A plain-looking man and woman walked into the office one day in the absence of the attorney.

His boy greeted the callers cordially and asked what they desired, adding that Mr. ——— was out, but that he attended to matters in his absence.

The man explained that he and his wife did not get along very well and both wanted to be released from their married relations.

"Oh, that can easily be arranged," remarked the whilom attorney, and looking wise he ostentatiously examined a lot of law-books, and after a few minutes proceeded to draw up an agreement between the man and his wife to disagree.

He framed it in the language of the law, putting in the "salds," "greetings" and "whereas," as well as an alarming array of references to "parties of the first part" and "parties of the second part," and even to "a vinculo matrimonio," the latter being intended to properly impress his clients.

Large seals were added to the document, which the boy indorsed with a flourish and gills of red ink; then the agreement was duly signed, the boy adding his name as witness.

The man was very grateful, and asked what the fee was. The small boy said \$50, and to the plea that this was a good deal to pay for so little work, answered:

"But see what I have done for you, and, anyhow, we never scratch a pen here for less than \$50."

The man only had \$25, but he paid that, and promised that he would return in a few days and pay the remainder.

The following week he put in an appearance, and the boy being out, saw the attorney himself, and remarked cheerfully that he had come to pay \$15 on account.

"On account of what?" asked the attorney.

"Why, the agreement I had drawn up here last week," replied the client.

"What agreement?" asked the attorney.

The man produced the paper and handed it to the lawyer, and, as the latter read it, his eyes grew like an owl's at night. When he at last reached the clause:

"Know all men by these presents, that John ——— and Mary ———, having agreed before me as a witness, they are free to marry again in this State," the cold perspiration started to the lawyer's brow as he blurted out:

"For heaven's sake don't tell me you are married!"

"No," answered the man. "I'm going to be married next week and Mary will be married to-morrow."

The lawyer quickly explained the case to the man, and two trials for bigamy were saved from our already overcrowded courts.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Five Collections of Coins.

The most complete collection of coins in America, embracing coins of every description, from the early colonial days down to the present time, is in the possession of Loring G. Parmelee, of Boston.

The intrinsic value is something less than \$1,500, but its mercantile value is about \$75,000.

UNCLE BEN IS CONVERTED.

While walkin' long St. Charles street de udder afternoon

My 'tention was attracted by the sweetness of a tune; I seed the people crowdin' in, so I thought I'd go in too.

Kase I didn't hab no place ter go, nor nuffin else to do.

Den he 'on, white folks, jist a minute, ter what Ise got ter say.

An' I'll tell you 'bout dem 'vangelists that preached de udder day;

I hear'd a heap about them, so I thought I'd jist drop in.

An' hear dem preach de Gospel dat would lead us all frum sin.

W'en I got in de hall dat day an' sat down in a chair,

De singin' rose so softy an' so sweetly 'pon de air

Dat I really thought 'twas angels dat was singin' all aroun'.

Case de music was de sweetest dat I ever hear'd in town.

Den Massa Prescher rose an' preached de words of lub an' trufe,

Untwell I saw de light ob Heaben shinin' frum de roof,

I knew dat God forgave me, dat he wash'd my sins away,

Kase I've felt jist ten years younger since I hear'd him preach dat day.

De words jist flowed frum dat man's lips like watah frum de springs,

An' he tol' us Jesus lovd' us all, an' dirrent udder things;

He said a gemmem might be grate, an' make a repertation,

But if he didn't gib wid lub he nebbor 'ceive salvation.

"Lep' a he'pl'n' han'," he sed, "an' sabe an' sabe all dat you can,

An' God will lead yer safely ter a bright an' happy lan';

Ef a man is all in rage don't pas' 'im wid a sneer,

But stop an' gib him words ob lub, ob sympathy an' cheer."

Ef you a-heer'd dat gemmem preach you'd a-panted suah's yer born,

An' would be with Jesus w'en old Gabrij blow'd his horn;

So, all you sinnahs, jine de chu'ch an' kneel ter God an' pray,

An' Jesus will receive yo' souls on resurrection day.

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SOMETHING ABOUT FRET-WORK.

Money Can be Made with a Little Skill Saw.—The Material Used.

"There is a great deal people don't know about the art of fret-sawing," said a well-known artist in fret-work in response to the inquiries of a reporter,

"and people would wonder, too, if they knew how simple it is and how it is becoming the fashion."

"Take for instance the latest design of a cabinet of fret-work. Nothing like it has ever been produced in the art of fret-sawing. Indeed it is hard to conceive of the effectiveness of the appearance of such an article when constructed out of differently colored and properly selected woods, and when you think that it is possible for a boy to construct such an article from the pattern, you begin to realize the real value of the fret machine."

"Such a cabinet stands from the base 79 inches; it is 45 inches across and 15 inches deep. The front of the first section is ornamented with panels; in the centre of the second section are four drawers, and at the ends folding doors, back of which are receptacles for knick-knacks; the third section, when open, forms a lady's writing-desk, and the fourth, two doors open upon a mirror, fifteen by thirty inches in size, and on either side eight small doors which open into receptacles for a lady's toilet articles. The whole is surmounted by a castellated top."

"The pattern for this costs but \$2, and yet this cabinet, when made up, will make as valuable an article of furniture as any that can be bought at a furniture store for from \$300 to \$500. Besides the beautiful results obtained by this work, there is money in it."

"I can tell you of a case in point. A young man who found it impossible to obtain employment became possessed of a foot-power scroll-saw and by its aid made brackets, card-baskets, match-boxes, frames and other articles, which gave him when sold a clear profit of \$5 a day."

"Hundreds of others here earned \$50 to \$75 each by the sale of work done at leisure time. More than 30,000 foot-power scroll-saws have been made and sold to parties who are now using them for pleasure or profit, and besides there are probably three times as many more who use the ordinary hand-saw."

"From a square foot of black walnut I have known to be made in a few hours a handsome clock-case worth at least \$5 and the material costing but ten cents. A piece of ebony, worth about a penny, furnished enough material for a cross for which a person would gladly have given a couple of dollars."

"A square foot of good black walnut will be sufficient to make four or five pretty brackets which will readily sell for 50 cents each."

"What about the wood that is used in fret-work?"

"There are more kinds than you imagine. First comes white pine, useful particularly for lining the bottoms of boxes, etc. Then there is Spanish cedar, easily obtained from cigar boxes, but really only suited for coarse work. Butternut, also known as white walnut, cuts clean, but is soft and not adapted for delicate designs. Red cedar and white juniper are both handsomely marked, though difficult to cut successfully, because they are picky. White poplar is very useful to the fret-sawyer, as also is basswood, furnished by the lime tree."

"But the highly ornamental goods are black walnut, white holly, ebony, mahogany, rosewood and satinwood. Besides these there are the tulipwood, olive, bird's-eye maple and Hungarian ash."

"You cut other material than wood in fret-work?"

"Yes, there are ivory and tortoise-shell, for instance. There are two varieties of elephant ivory, the Asiatic and African. The latter is more opaque and dead white than the other."

"But the hippopotamus supplies ivory which is much harder and far more valuable than that of the elephant, being of a purer white and almost free from grain."

"An interesting fact about ivory in connection with this work is that it requires seasoning the same as wood and is very liable to crack and warp when subjected to changes of temperature. It costs \$6 to \$8 a pound in the rough."

"Tortoise-shell can be applied to the same purpose as ivory."

"Mother-of-pearl is another of these choice materials that can be used by the fret-sawyer."

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